SUB B1

42. (Amended) A communication network for the transmission of data within and between one or more remote data processing subsystems, at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and at least one central subsystem forming a tiered architecture wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said one or more data processing subsystems, said data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of checks, comprising:

at least one first local area network for transmitting data including a payer bank's identification number, a payer bank's routing number, a payer bank's routing information, a payer's account number, a payer's check, a payer bank's draft, a check amount, a payee bank's identification number, a payee bank's routing information, and a payee's account number, within a corresponding one of said one or more remote subsystems;

at least one second local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate subsystem;

at least one third local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one central subsystem; and

at least one wide area network for transmitting data between said one or more remote subsystems, said at least one intermediate subsystem and said at least one central subsystem.

SUB B2

46. (Amended) A method for transmitting data within and between one or more remote subsystems, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner wherein each of the central subsystems communicate with at least one [a corresponding some of the] intermediate subsystem[s] and each of the intermediate subsystems communicate with at least one [a corresponding some of the] remote subsystem[s] comprising the steps of:

capturing an image of checks and extracting data therefrom, said data including a payer bank's identification number, a payer bank's routing number, a payer bank's routing information, a payer's account number, a payer's check, a payer bank's draft, a check amount, a payee bank's identification number, a payee bank's routing information, and a payee's account number, and further including:

transmitting data within the remote locations;

transmitting data from each remote location to a corresponding intermediate location;

transmitting data within the intermediate locations;

transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and

transmitting data within the central locations.

Please add new claims 54 -57 as follows:

-- 54. A communication network for the transmission of data within and between one or more remote data processing subsystems, at least one intermediate data collecting subsystem and at least one central subsystem forming a tiered architecture wherein each of said at least one central data processing subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said at least one data collecting subsystem and each of said at least one data collecting subsystem communicate with a corresponding some of said one or more data processing subsystems, said data processing subsystem including an imaging subsystem for capturing images of checks and verifying the checks, comprising:

at least one first local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said one or more remote subsystems;

at least one second local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one intermediate subsystem;

at least one third local area network for transmitting data within a corresponding one of said at least one central subsystem; and

at least one wide area network for transmitting data between said one or more remote subsystems, said at least one intermediate subsystem and said at least one central subsystem.

55. A method for transmitting data within and between one or more remote subsystems, at least one intermediate subsystem and at least one central subsystem in a tiered manner wherein each of the central subsystems communicate with intermediate subsystem and each of the intermediate subsystems communicate with at least one remote subsystem comprising the steps of: